

REMARKSA. Period for Reply

A shortened statutory period for reply was set to expire three months from the date of the Office Action. The Office Action is dated February 27, 2003. This Amendment and Remarks is being filed on May 27, 2003.

B. Status

The Office Action of February 27, 2003 was nonfinal.

C. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending.

D. Application Papers

Informal drawings were filed with the present case.

E. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

This case does not claim domestic or foreign priority.

F. Attachments

Applicant submitted two PTO-1449 forms in this case, both of which are stamped with the date of January 31, 2002 by the USPTO.

The Patent Office has signed these forms, initialed all of the references on these forms and returned these forms to applicant. This is appreciated.

G. The Office Action

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. in view of Rainey. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but it was

{14738.DOC}
(Amendment and Remarks—page 3 of 6)

indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This is very much appreciated.

As to allowable claim 2, the subject matter of this claim has been incorporated into claim 1. There are no intervening claims.

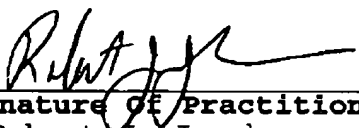
As to allowable claim 3, the dependency of this claim has been changed to claim 1.

It should be noted that claim 1 has been grammatically amended in line 2 to insert an "a" immediately prior to "front."

H. Summary

Allowance of claims 1 and 3-5 and issuance of the formal Notice of Allowance would be appreciated.

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{14738.DOC}
(Amendment and Remarks—page 4 of 6)

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Marked up v rsion showing changes

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) In combination, a stabilized retaining wall structure comprising a plurality of individual blocks stacked in an array of superimposed rows each with a front and a rear surface, at least one hollow core being formed in selected of said blocks with an access bore extending from the rear surface of the block to the surface of the wall comprising said hollow core, an earthen fill zone in spaced apart relation to said rear surfaces and clean granular back-fill interposed between said earthen fill zone and said rear surfaces, a stable anchoring assembly disposed in said earthen fill zone and being coupled to and in restraining contact with said selected blocks, and a coupling means disposed in the core of said selected blocks for interconnection with said stable anchoring assembly, said coupling means comprising:

(a) a keeper device, an elongated fastener means with a body segment and opposed proximal and distal ends, and with said body segment extending through and distally of said access bore, and with said distal end comprising an anchoring assembly attachment means;

(b) said keeper device being configured to restrain the proximal end of said elongated fastener means within said access bore and said hollow core; [and]

(c) said anchoring assembly attachment means being secured to said stable anchoring assembly; and

(d) said elongated fastener means consisting of a flexible cable.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

3. (Amended) The coupling means of Claim [2] 1 wherein said

{14738.DOC}

(Amendment and Remarks—page 5 of 6)

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flexible cable consists of polymeric resin.

4. The coupling means of Claim 1 wherein said keeper device comprises a metal bracket.

5. The coupling means of Claim 1 wherein said keeper device consists of a molded plastic plate.

{14738.DOC}
{Amendment and Remarks-page 6 of 6}

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